

In view of the recommendations made by the Commission/Committee, the Government have been taking appropriate measures periodically. These measures include simplification of legal proceedings for speedy disposal of cases, computerization in Courts appointment of Special Magistrates and review of the strength of judges from time to time. These measures will go a long way in expediting disposal of cases & making the courts more user friendly.

The Government is also encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution such as arbitration, mediation and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base with the enforcement of the legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, w.e.f. 9.11.1995. Lok Adalats have proved to be effective and successful supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Cases Pending with income tax appellate Tribunal

263. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with Income Tax Appellate Tribunal as on date;

(b) the number of cases where amount exceeds Rs. 1 crore or more;

(c) whether Government are contemplating early disposal of the same to avoid loss of revenue and harassment of the assesses involved; and

(d) the steps to be taken in this regard and time-frame any thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The number of cases pending with Income-tax appellate Tribunal as on 1.7.2000 is 2, 61,317.

(b) to (d) Income-tax Appellate Tribunal does not maintain any consolidated/ common record of the appeals regarding the amount involved in each appeal. However in order to reduce the pendency of the appeals, the Government has sanctioned 15 additional Benches. Of these, ten benches have started functioning. Appointment of Members to fill the vacancies have already been taken up. 19 Members are in the process of joining. Remaining vacancies have already been advertised.